

**We Claim:**

1. A method for selecting a workflow comprising the steps of:

5                    constructing a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow  
specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using  
components having defined inputs and outputs;

                  calculating a predetermined exposure measure for each of the possible  
10                   workflows in the set of possible workflows; and

                  selecting the constructed workflow for which the predetermined  
exposure measure is calculated to be a minimum.

- 15    2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a library  
of components from which possible workflows can be constructed.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of defining an  
exposure measure to be representative of the amount of information that a  
20                   constructed workflow exposes.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of defining an  
exposure measure to be representative of the duration for which a constructed  
workflow exposes information.

- 25    5. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of defining an  
exposure measure to be representative of the amount of information that a  
constructed workflow exposes, and the duration for which information is  
exposed.

- 30    6. A computer system for selecting a workflow comprising computer software  
recorded on a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

constructing a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using components having defined inputs and outputs;

5                   calculating a predetermined exposure measure for each of the possible workflows in the set of possible workflows; and

                  selecting the constructed workflow for which the predetermined exposure measure is calculated to be a minimum.

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7.     A computer program product for selecting a workflow comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

                  constructing a set of possible workflows meeting a workflow  
15                   specification having a predetermined input and a required output, using components having defined inputs and outputs;

                  calculating a predetermined exposure measure for each of the possible workflows in the set of possible workflows; and

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                  selecting the constructed workflow for which the predetermined exposure measure is calculated to be a minimum.

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